

Middle East's Christmas customs choose sanctity over Santa

SIANS call the red-suited fellow with the white beard **Garant Baba**, or the father of the new year. Pagans call him **Father Frost**, and the Greeks configured the real-life fifth century monk **St. Nicholas** as **Santa Claus**.

Armenians and the Copts are among those who celebrate Christmas the same way or even better.

Land of the Bible is the birthplace of Jesus. In the Holy Land, everyone celebrates Christmas the same way or even better.

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Christmas dinner for the Eastern Orthodox is not the elaborate affair it is in the West. The holiday is preceded by a 40-day partial fast that runs through Christmas Day. For the observant that means no Christmas Eve turkey, no meat, no dairy products.

Church celebrations resemble a Roman mass but are refined by local culture. Ethiopians, weak from their fast, lean on long T-shaped staffs throughout the six-hour midnight litany, celebrated in the Abyssinian chapel in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre since they have no rights in Bethlehem.

The Coptic Church, which is found predominantly in Egypt, also celebrates Christmas on Jan. 7, instead of Dec. 25. A month before Christmas, the Coptic Church holds masses in honour of the Virgin Mary. That month is called Kechik in the Coptic calendar.

The Copts also stick to a vegetarian diet for forty days before the fast. As Christmas Day approaches, each household thinks of the poor and a "corner for the poor" is allocated in each house where any donations that the family could afford are stacked.

Whether the donations are food or clothing, everything is given to the church, which then distributes them among the needy people. Every household grows wheat and lupins in small dishes. This is symbolic of the offering of the earth to the people who toil and plant it.

On Christmas Eve, families attend Midnight Mass. Children carry hollowed oranges, with slits on the side, with lit candles inside them. The candle light is symbolic of coming of Christ—the Light of the World.

Present are given on the second day of Christmas, or "Boxing Day" as it's known in the West. The logic behind this is that the shepherds in the Bethlehem area presented their gifts to Jesus on the second day of his birth.

The Syrian Orthodox Church, found predominantly in the north of Syria and Iraq (especially in Mosul), also has its own beliefs and traditions about Christmas.

The Syrian Orthodox Church is distinguished for its closeness to the Jerusalem tradition of the early church. Their present liturgical language, Syriac, was the Eastern dialect of Aramaic, which was believed to be Jesus's mother tongue. In some villages in Syria, the language spoken is a dialect of Aramaic or Syriac.



Having been under the influence of east and west during the early centuries of Christianity, the Syrian Orthodox Church has adopted some particular traditions that are not found among the other sects.

For example, a fire is lit on Christmas Day during the reading of the Bible. This tradition has been inherited probably from the pagan influence on the early church.

On Dec. 25 of each year, pagans

meet in the house of the most elderly and venerated among them. The food that is left is kept on the table rather than taking it back to the kitchen. The belief is that Virgin Mary will go around blessing houses and the table should be set for her. This tradition has been kept until the very recent past.

Christmas celebrations in Jordan have undergone substantial changes in the past decade. Traditional celebrations were inspired by local customs which did not differ much from the celebrations of the non-Christian communities.

However, with the advent of Western influences, a number of changes took place, especially in the Western churches (Catholic and Protestant) while the Eastern churches (Orthodox, Armenians, Assyrians) still retained a number of their traditions.

Four years ago both the Western and Eastern churches agreed to celebrate Christmas according to the Western calendar, on Dec. 25. They also agreed to celebrate Easter together, according to the Eastern calendar.

It is important to note that East Jordan is the only Arab country in which Easter is observed by all Christian communities together. This was done with the approval of the hierarchy of the church.

In the East, people started to celebrate Christmas in the fifth century, while in the West, people observed Christmas for the first time on the Dec. 25 in the 10th century, and they observed it on that day instead of the heathen feast called the feast of the sun of righteousness. They have substituted Christmas for the feast.

Christmas means a lot to people, as it is a day when all relatives visit, greet and present each other with gifts. People visit each other on that day and several days

They make peace with each other, forgetting previous misunderstandings, believing that Christmas is the feast of love and peace because God has shown love to man through incarnation.

Generally, Christians in Jordan celebrate Christmas like Christians in the West. On Christmas Eve, families get together, usually at the house of the head of the family. They have supper, drink wine, sing Christmas carols and present each other with gifts.

There were times when it was shameful not to attend Christmas mass, which starts after ten o'clock at night, but few people attend mass nowadays.

Christmas decorations can be now seen everywhere, and even non-Christians decorate their shops. Yet, in spite of Western influences on Christmas traditions in Jordan, some people still retain a number of their traditions.

The Assyrians, for example, go to church after midnight on Christmas Eve, at one or two o'clock in the morning. After the mass, they all greet each other and shake hands. If a person doesn't want to make peace with another, he must not go to church. Later they go around visiting their relatives till morning. While they are away, they keep the lights of their houses on all night (so that the house will not be empty after Christ is born). It is the habit also that during Christmas, fathers visit their married daughters and boys their married sisters.

In Fuhes, the most heavily Christian-populated town in Jordan, during the first day of the feast, people go to the cemetery to visit the dead, taking with them some sweets, black coffee and cigarettes. Then they go around visiting each other.

Families who have lost a loved

one during the previous year usually stay at home on the morning of the first day of the feast to receive visitors, but in the afternoon, they go around visiting relatives and friends.

In Fuhes, almost everyone gets new clothes for Christmas, especially children, while old women usually put on their traditional black dresses. As for Christmas presents, a special youth club collects money and presents from rich families and distributes them to the poor.

Whatever traditions are adopted for Christmas in the Holy Land or anywhere else, they do not overshadow the basic truth of what Christmas is as a Christian festival.

Adapted from a report by the Holy Land Observer, a weekly newspaper published in Jerusalem.

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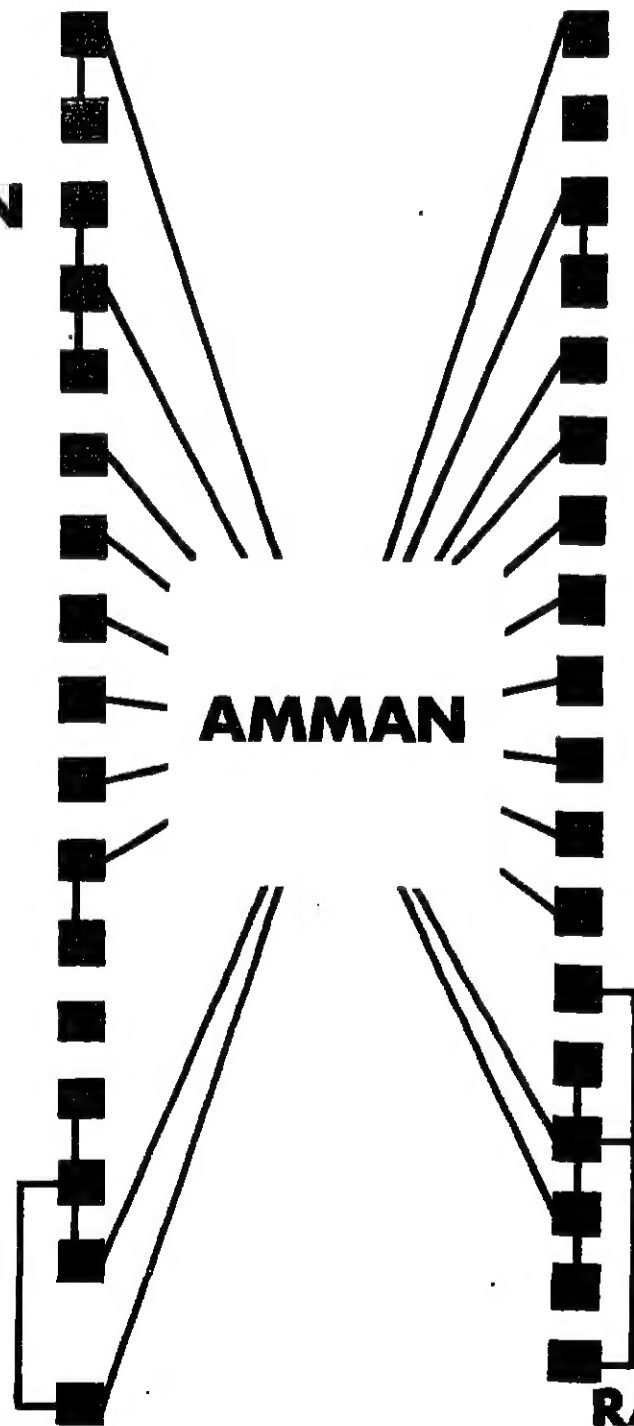
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WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

Department of Culture and Arts presents an exhibition of arts and flower arrangement by Ibrahim Arar. The show is the first of its kind in Jordan; in it the artist has used natural materials. The opening ceremony is on Thursday at 4 p.m., at the Art Institute in Jabal Amman. The exhibition will continue till Dec. 29.

Department of Culture and Arts, in cooperation with the Jordan Artists' Association, presents an exhibition of paintings by Zoubi. The show is open to the public at the association's exhibition hall in Jabal Luweibdeh, across the street from the Cultural Centre.

Jordan National Gallery presents an exhibition of paintings by Bisharat, at the gallery in Jabal Luweibdeh.

Department of Culture and Arts, in cooperation with the Ministry of the German Democratic Republic, presents an exhibition of posters at the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and in Shmeisani. The show ends on Wednesday.

Children's Play

Jaya Arts Centre presents a New Year's programme for children. The show includes a play, "The Stubborn Carrot", and a performance will take place at the centre, at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Tickets are at the door for children.

Play

Amman Drama Group, in cooperation with the Jordanian Artists' Association, presents a play of social criticism, "Skaba", at the Department of Culture and Arts Theatre in Jabal Amman.

1980 Chess tournament

Royal Chess Club invites all chess players and those interested in chess to visit the club, to watch and take part in open chess on Wednesday and Thursday. Location: Fourth Circle, Jabal Amman, Tel. 44713

Christmas Services

Church of the Redeemer (C of E/Anglican/Episcopal) will be holding special services:

Wednesday, 11:30 p.m.: Midnight Communion
Thursday, 11 a.m.: Morning Prayer/Holy Communion
Friday, Dec. 28, 12 noon: Family Service
The church is located in the First Circle area of Jabal Amman, near Ahliyah Girls School (CMS), beyond China Restaurant.

Amman International Church (International and Internationalist) will hold the following special services:
Saturday, 10 a.m.: Christmas Worship Service
Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 p.m.: New Year's Eve Watch Night

The church meets for worship at the Baptist School in Shmeisani. For information, contact the Rev. Philip de Jonge, pastor; tel. 44713.

Celebration

Pakistani Embassy will hold a celebration at its chancery in Jabal Amman at 5 p.m. on Thursday to commemorate the birth of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

Christmas church services in Amman

Eastern (Greek) Orthodox
Church of the Annunciation (Abduli)
Dec. 24 -- 11:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 7:30 a.m.

Armenian Orthodox
St. Tathos Church (Jabal Ashrafieh)
Dec. 24 -- 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 8:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic (Latin)
Church of the Annunciation (Jabal Luweibdeh)
Dec. 24 -- 12:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
and English at 10:00 a.m.

Melchite (Greek Catholic)
Jabal Amman, First Circle
Dec. 24 -- 11 p.m., midnight
Dec. 25 -- 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

St. Joseph's (Jabal Amman - First Circle)
Dec. 24 -- 11:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Jabal Luweibdeh
Dec. 24 -- midnight
Dec. 25 -- 9 a.m.

Monastery Church (Jabal Al-Hashemi)
Dec. 24 -- 11:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 7:30 a.m.

Jabal Al-Husseini
Dec. 25 -- 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m.

St. John the Baptist, De la Salle (Jabal Hussein)
Dec. 24 -- 12:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
and at 5:00 p.m. in English

South Ashrafieh
Dec. 25 -- 9 a.m.

Anglican/Episcopal
Church of the Redeemer (Jabal Amman - First Circle)

Syrian Orthodox
St. Ephraim Church (Jabal Ashrafieh)
Dec. 24 -- 11 p.m., midnight
Dec. 26 -- 9 a.m.

Dec. 24 -- 12:00 p.m. in English.
Lutheran Church (Jabal Amman - Sixth Circle)
Dec. 25 -- 9:00 a.m., and in English at 11:00 a.m.
Dec. 24 -- 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- 10:00 a.m.

Baptist Church Jabal Luweibdeh, near Muntazah
Dec. 25 -- 10:00 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene
Jabal Amman, First Circle
Dec. 25 -- 10:30 a.m.
Jabal Ashrafieh
Dec. 25 -- 10:00 a.m.

'Tis the season

With the coming of the holiday season, Christmas trees have been appearing in many corners of Amman—including some of the most unexpected. But one of the most impressive displays was that in the lobby of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel (right), which held a special children's Christmas party this week, complete with Santa Claus. (Photo by Yousef Al-Allan)



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POSTPONEMENT OF INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) announces the postponement until further notice of the above mentioned invitation, advertised Dec. 8, 1980, concerning the upgrading and expansion of the existing sewage treatment plant at 'Ain Ghazal.

The offers were due to be submitted on Jan. 31, 1981.

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JORDAN TIMES Middle East Monitor

Regional Briefs

BELGRADE: Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi met his Yugoslav counterpart - Josip Vrhovec for talks on the Gulf war and preparations for February's conference of non-aligned foreign ministers in New Delhi, officials said. Dr. Hammadi arrived in Belgrade Sunday for a previously unannounced visit. Officials would not say how long he intended to remain in Belgrade, but said the two men would hold further talks. Yugoslavia, a leading member of the 94-nation non-aligned movement which includes Iran and Iraq, has repeatedly called on the two countries to seek a peaceful solution to their dispute. It has warned that armed conflicts between non-aligned countries threaten their unity and create opportunities for interference by the superpowers. Iraq provides about half of Yugoslavia's 12 million tonnes annual crude oil imports, and Yugoslav firms are involved in a number of major construction projects in Iraq. (R)

CAIRO: The United States embassy has denied that Washington has requested the use of two military airstrips in Israeli-occupied Sinai. Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Fouad Mohieddin told the People's Assembly (parliament) Saturday that both the U.S. and Israel had "insisted" that American forces be allowed to use the airstrips, which are in a part of Sinai due to be handed back to Egypt in 1982. He said the idea had been categorically rejected by Cairo. Spokesmen for the U.S. and Israeli embassies said there had been no official requests for use of the airfields. The Israeli spokesman said the question had "arisen in conversation at various levels over a period of time." President Anwar Sadat has offered Washington military facilities in Egypt but, according to Mr. Mohieddin, this does not extend to Sinai. (R)

BONN: A Bonn court has sentenced Libyan Bashir Elmida to life imprisonment for murdering a former diplomatic compatriot who had refused to return to Libya. Judge Walter Schmitz-Justen said Mr. Elmida shot Mr. Omar Mehawi four times in central Bonn last May 10. The defence, which gave notice of appeal, said Libya's revolutionary committee had passed sentence of death on Mr. Mehawi, 42, a former economic attaché at the Libyan embassy. Earlier this year Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi gave Libyans living abroad a June deadline to return home or face assassination. A number of Libyan exiles were killed in various European cities, apparently at the hands of assassins sent from Libya. The judge, who compared Mr. Elmida to a Nazi criminal, said he had been brutal, merciless and stupid. He said Mr. Elmida arrived in Bonn last April and lived in various hotels while he watched his victim. The judge said the court believed others had helped him, one of whom was being held in investigative custody in Rome. Defence lawyer Klaus Kugler said Mr. Elmida believed he was justified in killing Mr. Mehawi because he considered the revolutionary committee's sentence legal. He said Mr. Elmida could not be viewed as more than an accomplice and should not be punished as an assassin. (R)

CAIRO: U.S. Senator Carl Levin, R-Mich., member of Senate arms services committee, ended a week long fact-finding tour in the Gulf states, Israel and Egypt Monday. U.S. embassy sources said Mr. Levin left for Washington earlier in the day after a meeting with Egyptian Defence Minister Gen. Ahmad Badawi. During his 24-hour visit here Mr. Levin also met President Anwar Sadat and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. No details of the meetings were released but sources said Mr. Levin, who is on a fact-finding tour did not discuss specifics. The Senate, earlier this month approved a \$1.3 billion economic and military package for Egypt, and \$2.2 billion for Israel. (AP)

TEHRAN: Three jailed Anglican missionaries and a British businessman detained in August will apparently spend Christmas in Iran as the less publicised "hostages." Scottish missionary Jean Waddell, 58, of Arbroath, missionary Dr. John Coleman and his wife Audrey, and businessman Andrew Martin Pyke have been denied all visits from relatives and British diplomats. They were detained separately for alleged espionage within a three-week period in August when British-Iranian relations deteriorated after the arrest of Iranian student demonstrators in London. As far as is known, they have not been charged. Britain's Archbishop of Canterbury recently sent a personal letter to Iran's religious revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, asking for permission to hold a Christmas service for the four but no reply has yet been received. (R)

ISTANBUL: Istanbul police have arrested a group of 38 right-wing extremists recently, believed to be responsible for 20 murders, according to police sources. Among the 38 were the suspected killers of Turkish author and television producer Umit Kaf-tancioglu, who was shot dead on an Istanbul street earlier this year. Police said they found a machine gun, 12 automatic weapons and large quantities of ammunition and explosives in the extremists' homes. (R)

BELGRADE: Yugoslavia's trade with Arab states rose by a third to \$2,211 million during the first 11 months of this year compared with the same period in 1979, officials said Monday. Yugoslavia traded most with Iraq, its main oil supplier, with exchanges worth \$1,114 million over that period, they added. (R)

CAIRO: Egypt will start exporting locally-made ammunition for Soviet-designed BM-21 rocket-launchers next month, according to the head of military research, Maj. Gen. Youssef Affi. He did not say which countries would receive the ammunition. Last October Somalia sent its deputy defence minister to Cairo to request Egyptian-made arms. Like Egypt, Somalia has an arsenal of largely Soviet Origin but political differences with Moscow have cut the flow of spare parts and ammunition. Egypt began making Soviet-style arms and ammunition in 1974 when Moscow imposed an arms embargo in retaliation for President Anwar Sadat's expulsion of 20,000 Soviet military advisers. (R)

ALGIERS: British Gas and the Algerian state oil and gas corporation Sonatrach have reached an interim price agreement for Algerian liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to Britain, the official Algerian news agency APS reported Monday. It said British gas would pay an average price of \$4.60 for each million British thermal units (BTUs) for the first half of next year, rising to \$4.80 on July 1. The \$4.60 figure is the highest ever agreed to by any Sonatrach client and weakens the negotiating positions of buyers such as the American companies El Paso and Distrigaz, and the state-owned Gaz de France. Spain's Enagas recently negotiated a price believed to be in the region of \$4.4 BTU, while the American firms and Gaz de France are paying \$3.25. (AP)

LONDON: The Duke of Kent, cousin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, will make a tour of Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Sharjah and Kuwait between Feb. 4 and 13 in his capacity as vice-chairman of the British overseas trade board, the board announced Monday. (AP)

KUWAIT: Kuwait is increasing the price of its crude oil by about \$3 a barrel from Jan. 1 following last week's 10 per cent rise agreed by OPEC ministers meeting in Bali, a Kuwaiti newspaper said today. The new price of a barrel of Kuwaiti crude would be either \$34.50 or \$35, compared to \$31.50, at present, *Al Qabas* said, quoting a Kuwaiti official source. The Kuwaiti petroleum ministry declined comment on the report, which also estimated Kuwait's oil income in 1981 at \$20 billion on the basis of the new price and at the present daily output of 1.5 million barrels a day.

Likely to increase pressure on Gulf states Kuwait to hold elections next February as planned

BAHRAIN: Kuwait says will hold parliamentary elections next February as planned, quashing reports that they would be postponed because of the Iraq-Iran war.

Chief government spokesman Abdul Aziz Hussein told reporters in Kuwait the cabinet would fix the election date soon. Arrangements were being made to hold the elections by the end of February, he said.

The amir (ruler) of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, decreed on Aug. 24 that the new 50-member National Assembly should meet by the end of next February.

But an Arabic publication, *Al Nahar Arab Report and Memo*, said last month that the elections had been put off due to the Gulf war and that preparatory work



Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber

After the Iranian revolution, Bahrain also hinted at an early return to parliamentary life which was suspended in August 1975. But the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, suggested last week that this might still be far off. "Our democratic experience failed and this should make it necessary to contemplate and revise the style of democratic processes for the future", he said in a radio address.



Bahrain's Sheikh Khalifa

had stopped.

The previous amir dissolved the assembly and curbed press freedom in August 1976, ending 15 years of parliamentary rule, after the government resigned. It accused parliament of blocking legislation and reviling ministers. The decree dissolving parliament also said it should be reconvened within four years.

No other Gulf country has an elected parliament although Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have nominated assemblies. Saudi Arabia has said it is considering introducing a consultative council.

Americans file 333 claims seeking \$8 billion from Iran

By Alexander Nicol

NEW YORK: As negotiations for the release of American hostages in Iran appear to be making progress, claims filed in U.S. courts against Iranian assets are increasing every week.

Since President Carter froze Iranian assets in U.S. banks on Nov. 14 last year, companies and individuals have been suing Iran to seek recompense for alleged breaches of contract, defaults on debt and expropriation of property following the revolution early in 1979.

There are now 333 claims seeking a total of more than \$8 billion from Iranian bodies, according to Mr. Thomas Shack of the Washington law firm Abourezk, Shack and Mendenhall, which is coordinating Iran's defence.

Most of the suits contain warrants of attachment, intended to block the removal of Iranian funds from the United States after the freeze on assets is lifted.

Iran has demanded that the claims be dropped as one of its conditions for releasing the hostages. But the executive affairs minister, Mr. Behzad Nabavi, says Iran has accepted a form of arbitration for investigating U.S. and Iranian claims.

Pursuing the court cases to their conclusion would create litigation of unprecedented proportions, lasting for years, said lawyers involved in the claims.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government is attempting to stay the litigation while negotiations on the hostages continue, and it has achieved considerable success.

The largest claim so far filed is for \$450 million sought by Mr. William Bikoff and Mr. George Eisenpresser. The two New Yorkers say they invested \$192,000 in an Iranian copper mining venture and are seeking compensation for expropriation of property, equipment and their interests in the mine.

Other major claimants are banks which contend that Iran defaulted on its loans. The banks and their claims include Chase Manhattan (\$366 million), Bank of America (\$337 million), Citibank (\$117 million), First National Bank of Chicago (\$86 million) and Manufacturers



Mr. Abdul Aziz Hussein

Hanover Trust (\$85 million). Companies which were involved in oil drilling in Iran are also after compensation. Sedco is seeking \$175 million and Santa Fe International Corporation \$168 million for alleged breaches of contracts and expropriation of equipment.

General Telephone and Electronics, which has a contract to set up a telecommunications network in Tehran, is suing for \$100 million.

Iran has disputed the size of the claims. Mr. Shack, the lawyer dealing with Iran's defence, told Reuters: "There's a great deal of water in many of the claims."

Lawyers and officials noted that some suits seek payments for punitive damages and lost profits. One American official said that, when filing such claims, "people tend to be generous to themselves."

American claims against Iran could eventually total many more than the 333 so far filed in the courts. A Treasury Department survey brought responses from some 2,200 potential claimants.

Reports from Tehran indicated that under the terms of a possible settlement between Iran and the United States, both countries might deposit funds with the Algerian government, and a joint commission might arbitrate.

Iran has filed a lawsuit in the United States to recover the wealth of the late Shah, which it claims is more than \$30 billion.

Mr. Paul O'Dwyer, who is representing Iran in this suit, said in an interview that he hoped the two countries could establish a joint commission to arbitrate claims in detail.

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"Our democracy is derived from our values, culture and society. We should not import foreign democracies," he added.

The return to parliamentary rule in Kuwait is, however, likely to increase pressure on other Gulf countries to create similar platforms for popular participation.

In a decree last Wednesday, the amir of Kuwait doubled the number of constituencies to 50. Each constituency will now elect two deputies instead of five.

The change takes into account an increase in the number of voters from 44,000 in the 1974 elections to 70,000. Women will not be allowed to vote. (R)

300,000-500,000 Israelis go to U.S.

Report on emigration stirs profound concern in Israel

TELAVIV: A report estimating that between 300,000 and 500,000 Israelis have emigrated to the United States is stirring profound concern in the Zionist state.

The report, by a senior official of the Jewish Agency which oversees the movement of Jews to and from Israel, recommends that the government treat the problem of emigration as "a national emergency."

The report has not been made public but its content has filtered down to the press and was confirmed by Jewish Agency officials.

With fewer Jews immigrating to Israel and high Arab birthrate threatening to outstrip Jewish population growth in Israel, emigration is viewed by many Israelis as desertion.

Those who leave the country usually tell their friends they are going for a visit, finding it difficult to face the hostile reactions to emigration.

The 60-page report was written

U.N. shuffles ME forces commands

UNITED NATIONS: Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim has announced a general shift in commands of U.N. forces in the Middle East.

The announcement was contained in two newly issued documents - a Dec. 15 letter from Dr. Waldheim to the Security Council proposing the appointments and a Dec. 19 reply from Mr. Donald F. McHenry of the United States, council president this month, saying the council had agreed to them.

Dr. Waldheim said Irish Maj. Gen. James J. Quinn, commander of the U.N. force in Cyprus, would return to Ireland early in 1981 "after more than four years" distinguished service with the United Nations. He announced these resulting changes.

Gen. Quinn's present post will go to Austrian Maj. Gen. Gunther Greindl, now commander of the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force separating Israeli and Syrian troops on the Golan Heights. Gen. Greindl will reach Cyprus at the end of next February for a command-transfer "period of overlap." The U.N. force there has guarded against clashes between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since 1968.

Gen. Greindl's present post will go to Finnish Maj.-Gen. Erkki R. Kaira, now chief of staff of the Jerusalem-based U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation, consisting of officers that help the Middle East forces. Gen. Kaira "should arrive in Damascus" by Feb. 20.

by Jewish Agency Director-General Shmuel Lahis after he visited Israeli expatriates in New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

It urges creating a special office, headed by a deputy prime minister, to tackle the problem, and suggests that efforts be made to give an Israeli education to more than 100,000 Israeli children among the emigrants in the United States.

Particularly controversial is Mr. Lahis' proposal that returning Israeli emigrants be granted the exemptions from tax and duty on household goods which are granted to new immigrants.

Mr. Azriel Waldman, director of the immigration ministry, warned that this could entice Israelis to go abroad for a few years with the sole intention of coming back as immigrants and getting tax exemptions.

Mr. Mordechai Wirshubski of the opposition Shai Party, presented an urgent motion for the agenda in parliament. He said the figures cited in the report have placed emigration "in the first line of our problems of existence, no less than problems of military security and the economy."

The daily newspaper *Haaretz*, which was first to publish the content of the report, editorialised Monday that financial incentives would not bring many emigrants home.

It blamed emigration on "the continuing state of war... the declining quality of life, the justifiable feeling that everything here is achieved the hard way, the difficulties young couples have getting housing, the lack of inspiration from a government of cynical politicians..."

There was no word on how Lahis arrived at a figure of almost half a million emigrants in the United States alone. The number of Israelis abroad would be much higher if those in Canada, South Africa, Australia, South America and Western Europe were included. There are 3.28 million Jews in Israel and 637,000 non-Jews.

A recent survey by the government bureau of statistics points to a sharp increase in emigration this year. It found that 32,702 more Israelis left the country than came in the first 10 months of 1980.

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Saudi Ara to restore supply lev to Phillippi

MANILA: Saudi Aramco Minister Sheikh Ali Yamani met Philippine Minister Gerónimo Tuesday for talks expected to concentrate on vital Saudi supplies to this country.

Sheikh Yamani arrived last night by private jet from Saudi Arabia and was met by Ferdinand Marcos.

Sheikh Yamani is the and, for the Philippines important -- oil must flow to the country within the days in the wake of the situation of Petroleum Countries (OPEC) in Bali, Indonesia.

President Marcos recently that Saudi Arabia Philippines' biggest crude, had cut off go to government supplies barrels a day last Nov. of concern about the Muslims in the south pines.

But he said the Saudi agreed to restore the supply.

The Philippines a 56,000 barrels a day through commercial supply line unaffected Saudi government can Philippines uses about barrels a day, about 90, which is imported.

The Manila govern been concerned to bol supplies for 1981 now lraq of 30,000 barrels of oil are jeopardised by war.

Philippine newspa glowing front-page today in praise to Saudi "moderate" position, levels among OPEC, and what they said was "erating influence" in politics.

The Saudis' financial for the Islamic Fund employment of an 100,000 Filipino contract were also praised. (R)



ers. Islam upholds the rights of the citizens - Muslim or non-Muslim - and the law remains the same during peace and war, during normal times and emergencies. Jinnah's idealism and thought were based on Islam. Muslim masses are tired of every form of tyranny and want to enjoy rights vouchsafed to every citizen in Muslim polities, provided they are run in accordance with the tenets of Islam. The insistence of the people of Pakistan upon the revival of Islamic law and mores at present can be understood only in this light," Dr. Qureshi writes.

Saudi Arabia's Yam



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Gloomy outlook for world airlines

GENEVA, Dec. 23 (R) — The world's major international airlines expect a record \$2.5 billion loss this year, a leading air transport official said today.

Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, director-general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said in an end-of-year review that 1981 promises to be little better for IATA's 108 member airlines, carriers of 70 per cent of the world's scheduled air traffic.

"International scheduled operations will probably not show a profit and the recently announced OPEC (oil) price increases add a new element of uncertainty to the airlines' future," he said in a report published yesterday.

Airline revenues were expected to total \$33.19 billion, a 19.2 per cent increase on last year's figure. But operating costs and interest payments were forecast to be \$35.7 billion, 27 per cent up on 1979.

He said economic recession in industrial nations, inflation, rising fuel prices and "haphazard government regulatory approaches to

aviation" were the major factors combining to drive airlines into the red.

International passenger traffic stagnated during 1980. Freight and mail turned the stagnation into an overall increase of two per cent, but it was the worst result since 1975, Mr. Hammarskjöld said.

About two thirds of airlines' costs now fell outside their control, he reported. "This applies not only to the price of fuel but also to a whole range of other expenses — particularly airport landing and navigation charges — set by governments with political as well as economic ends in mind."

"The airlines continue to face an uphill task...the very survival of some of them may be put at risk, particularly as regards privately-owned carriers with no government backing," he said.

Emirates bank opens in Bombay

BOMBAY, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — The Emirates Commercial Bank (ECB) extended its operations to India when it formally opened its first branch here today in the presence of Mr. Rashid Abdullah, United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr. Ibrahim Jawad, the UAE consul general in Bombay, said that this was the bank's first move into an international branch network.

Keeping pace with the phenomenal expansion in their share of the world's financial resources, the Arab nations were building a new international banking system to compete successfully with the Euromarkets, he said.

Japan outproduces U.S. as carmaker

TOKYO, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — Japan has surpassed the United States this year to become the world's largest automobile producer, according to a report released Tuesday.

A report by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, a trade group representing 13 carmakers, said Japanese production rose 15.1 per cent to 10.1 million units for the first 11 months of the year.

U.S. production reached only 7.4 million units during the same January-November period, down from 10.9 million in the first three-quarters of 1979, the report said.

The trade association forecast that 8 million automobiles would roll out of American factories this year, compared with 11.4 million last year. Japan was expected to produce 11 million units this year, compared with 9.6 million last year.

Domestic sales have faltered in

recent months, but exports for January-October, the most recent period for which data are available, show a 35.1 per cent rise over last year, an association spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Detroit General Motors (GM), the biggest U.S. automaker, expects an economic recovery and better sales next year, incoming GM head Roger Smith said in the company's end-of-the-year message.

GM is forecasting that the American market will be able to absorb more than 10 million cars and more than 2.7 million trucks in 1981, against nine million autos and 3.5 million trucks this year.

The firm expects the American real gross national product to grow by two to three per cent next year, against the anticipated drop of 1.5 per cent for this year. Mr. Smith said that prospects for the first half of 1981 are worse than for the second half, due to high interest rates.

UAE sets up central bank

ABU DHABI, Dec. 23 (R) — A central bank has replaced the currency board in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a spokesman said today.

The UAE president's chamberlain, Sheikh Surour Ibn Mohammad, was appointed chairman of the bank and Mr. Abdul Malik Al Hamr, since 1978 managing director of the currency board, the governor of the bank.

the spokesman said. The government first decided to set up a central bank for a liquidity crisis in 1977 to control monetary and banking policies and practices in the seven-member federation.

The board's British chief executive, Mr. Ronald Scott, was replaced by an administrative committee while the government sought the help of the International Monetary Fund to formulate legislation for a central bank.

When Mr. Hamr's board's mandate expired, he pledged to exercise control over banking. Bankers have not expected any dramatic changes, but are gradually tightening and more sophisticated market techniques.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

| Name of Company | Par Value | Number Traded | High | Low |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Islamic Bank 50% | JD 1,000 | 6,750 | 1,790 | 1,780 |
| Jordan-Kuwait Bank | JD 1,000 | 1,250 | 2,320 | 2,320 |
| Jordan-Gulf Bank | JD 1,000 | 15,463 | 1,650 | 1,630 |
| Arab Investment Bank | JD 1,000 | 260 | 1,680 | 1,680 |
| Jordan National Bank | JD 5,000 | 80 | 17,150 | 17,150 |
| Arab Bank Co. Ltd. | JD 10,000 | 150 | 121,500 | 121,000 |
| General Insurance Co. (New) | JD 1,000 | 500 | 1,450 | 1,450 |
| Arabian Seas Insurance Co. Ltd. | JD 5,000 | 180 | 10,800 | 10,800 |
| Jordan Electricity Co. | JD 1,000 | 946 | 2,050 | 2,050 |
| Arab International Hotels Co. | JD 1,000 | 1,500 | 0,940 | 0,940 |
| International Construction and Investments Co. | JD 1,000 | 3,185 | 0,860 | 0,850 |
| Arab Development and Investments Co. | JD 1,000 | 1,500 | 0,930 | 0,930 |
| Jordan Dairy Co. (Old) | JD 2,000 | 7,875 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| Jordan Dairy Co. (New) | JD 1,000 | 160 | 1,320 | 1,320 |
| General Mining Co. | JD 1,000 | 2,990 | 1,300 | 1,290 |
| Arab Aluminium Industries Co. | JD 1,000 | 1,330 | 1,520 | 1,510 |
| Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co. | JD 1,000 | 1,300 | 1,250 | 1,250 |
| Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co. | JD 1,000 | 2,372 | 3,470 | 3,460 |
| National Steel Industries | JD 1,000 | 3,500 | 2,800 | 2,800 |
| Jordan Worsteds Mills Co. | JD 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,930 | 1,920 |
| Jordan Ceramics Industries Co. | JD 1,000 | 200 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| Jordan Glass Industries Co. | JD 1,000 | 800 | 1,270 | 1,260 |
| Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co. | JD 1,000 | 50 | 0,800 | 0,800 |
| Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co. | JD 1,000 | 2,000 | 1,450 | 1,450 |
| Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Co. | JD 5,000 | 150 | 5,700 | 5,680 |
| Arab Pharmaceutical Industries Co. | JD 5,000 | 45 | 9,800 | 9,800 |
| Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. | JD 5,000 | 67 | 28,050 | 28,050 |
| Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Co. | JD 10,000 | 726 | 9,090 | 9,090 |
| Jordan Cement Factories Co. | JD 10,000 | 50 | 13,800 | 13,800 |
| | | 34 | 19,400 | 19,350 |

Total volume of shares traded on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1980: JD 120,976

Total number of shares traded: 55,613

Fall in U.S. prime pulls \$ down

LONDON, Dec. 23 (R) — Signs of a fall in U.S. interest rates pulled the dollar down sharply on currency markets today amid cautious trading ahead of the Christmas holiday.

A decision by several leading U.S. banks, including Chase Manhattan, to cut their prime lending rate by one point to 20.5 per cent persuaded many investors that U.S. interest rates were heading down, dealers said.

An earlier belief that prime rates, which hit a record 21.5 per cent last week, might go as high as 23 or 24 per cent caused the dollar to soar and gold to fall in recent weeks.

But today the dollar dropped swiftly against most currencies. It fell in London to 1.9425 West German marks from 1.9615 last night and 2.0180 a week ago. The pound sterling rose to 2.3750 dollars, more than two cents up on last night.

Many investors were unwilling to accumulate large currency surpluses ahead of the four-day Christmas holidays and were trying anxiously to balance their positions. Trading was light and this was exaggerating currency movements caused by changing views about interest rates, dealers said.

Gold rose about \$7 an ounce to \$605 in London. A decline in interest rates attracts funds to gold by making alternative financial holdings less attractive.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Dec. 23 (R) — Gold shares closed firm while the rest of the market were steady to mixed in low volume, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index was up 0.6 at 465.2.

The renewed rise in the bullion price to over \$600 pushed up gold shares but turnover was small due to seasonal influences, a point which applies to the rest of the market, dealers said. Movements among leading equities ranged to a few pence either way and government bonds showed falls of around 1/16 in shorter maturities.

U.S. and Canadian were inclined higher. Redland firmed 2p to 162 after news Guest Keen and Brambles Industries of Australia will jointly acquire Redland Purlie. Guest Keen ended 5p up.

Oils were the active sector where BP, Shell and Ultramar showed net rises of between 2p and 4p and Burmah oil was 3p higher at 190 after it announced relinquishment of the credit facility extended by the Bank of England, dealers said.

Fisons and Boots ended 2p down and a penny up respectively at 196 and 237 but the news of a merger of their respective agrochemical interest had little impact on share prices.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| U.S. dollar | 308.50/310.50 |
| U.K. sterling | 725.70/730.10 |
| West German mark | 157.40/158.40 |
| Swiss franc | 173.70/174.70 |
| Italian lire | 33.10/33.50 |
| (for every 100) | |
| French franc | 68.10/68.50 |
| Dutch guilder | 144.60/145.50 |
| Swedish crown | 70.10/70.50 |
| Belgium franc | 97.40/98.00 |
| Japanese yen | |
| (for every 100) | 148.50/149.40 |

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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 1980

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make certain you don't act impulsively, or you could run into unexpected trouble. Celebrating can be enjoyed today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your home is the sphere of your greatest endeavors today, so make it look as charming as you can. Enjoy a Merry Christmas Eve.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you carry through with your part of a contract with another. Postpone making a difficult decision now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can keep out of harm's way by being busily occupied today. Express love and happiness to family members.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Engage in only inexpensive pleasures during the day and all goes well for you. The evening is fine for celebrating.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Meditation on this important day can help you express love and goodwill to others. Be sure your home looks very festive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your financial position and make plans for improvement. Show generosity to closest ties and express happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Handle money matters in a precise manner for best results at this time. Think constructively. Be wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Morning is fine for straightening out personal matters, but later be more concerned with the goodwill of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Give full attention to intimate problems now and get them solved properly. Attend the social tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can rely on good friends during the day for assistance you may need. Have a Merry Christmas Eve.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Contact influential persons and get the backing you need. Spend some time with good friends who can be helpful to you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she may be too forceful in speech and action, and should be taught not to act in a hasty manner. Upon reaching maturity your progeny will become most successful. Some religious training is needed early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
1980 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 10854
 ♥ KQ42
 ♦ A7
 ♣ AKJ

WEST
 ♠ K96
 ♥ 765
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ 932

EAST
 ♠ Q73
 ♥ 73
 ♦ QJ1086
 ♣ 8654

SOUTH
 ♠ AJ2
 ♥ AJ1098
 ♦ K3
 ♣ Q107

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣.

The Principle of Restricted Choice is much like an innkeeper who has two choices on his menu. If he keeps trying to push one, it is usually right to assume that he is almost out of the other.

North-South reached a reasonable slam in fine style. After South showed a good hand with long hearts, North cue-bid in clubs to show a maximum no trump with good heart support. South and North traded two additional cue-bids before South

elected to try for the small slam.

Declarer won the diamond opening lead in his hand and drew trumps in three rounds. Next came the ace of diamonds and three rounds of clubs, ending on the table. With the minor suits stripped, the scene was set for an end play, which was South's chief hope to avoid losing two spade tricks.

Declarer led a low spade from dummy and inserted the jack. West won the king of spades and, since a minor-suit return would surrender the contract via a ruff-and-sluff, he continued with a low spade. Which spade should declarer call from dummy?

If you apply the Principle of Restricted Choice, you should play the eight. The theory is that if West held both the king and queen, he could equally well have won the first spade trick with the queen. Thus, the fact that he did not means that he is unlikely to hold the lady.

In fact, it is almost 2-to-1 in favor of playing East for the queen. There are twice as many combinations for West to hold either K-9-x (-x) or Q-9-x (-x) than specifically K-Q-x (-x).

If you play the percentages, the eight will fetch the queen from East. It is a simple matter to behold the lady with the ace and claim a well-played and well-bid slam.

THE BETTER HALF By Vinson



I found a little something extra in my paycheck this week. I didn't know the boss could issue W-2 forms so early.

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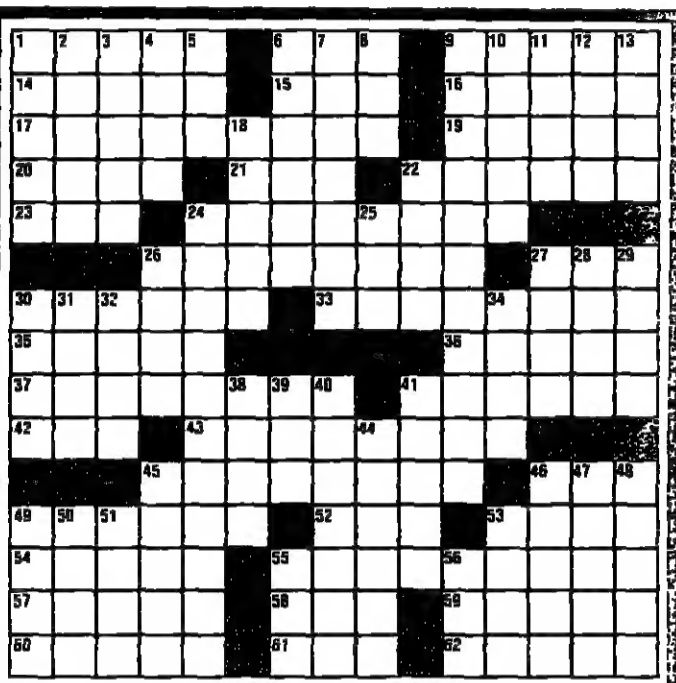
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THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 Across | 27 White House | 54 Mysterious | 25 Novelist |
| 2 Kitchen | 30 Leave | 55 Dominant | 26 Blotches |
| 3 Things | 33 Vehicle | 56 Airport | 27 Judicial |
| 4 due: abbr. | 35 "Faust," | 57 Groove | 28 Boxer Max |
| 5 Switchboard | 36 Hebrides or | 58 Nut or palm | 29 Deviates |
| 6 section | 37 Mongolia | 59 Heaven | 30 Be maudlin |
| 7 Exclamation | 38 Sars | 60 Jewish | 31 Feast |
| 8 of surprise | 41 Weapons | 61 feast | 32 Campanology |
| 9 Vivacious | 42 Electric | 62 feast | 33 doing |
| 10 Scaphants | 43 Colorful | 63 feast | 34 Sorry one |
| 11 Richards | 44 Man of | 64 feast | 35 European |
| 12 of tennis | 45 commerce | 65 feast | 36 Name of |
| 13 Rotten | 46 Petrol | 66 feast | 37 Some popes |
| 14 Certain | 47 Companion | 67 feast | 38 Reserve |
| 15 horses | 48 Athos | 68 feast | 39 In a way |
| 16 Female ruff | 49 Beat - for | 69 feast | 40 Carved |
| 17 Good | 50 "soil" | 70 feast | 41 Call for |
| 18 citizens | 51 "soil" | 71 feast | 42 Like some |
| 19 Scheme | 52 "soil" | 72 feast | 43 Gaboriau |
| | 53 "soil" | 73 feast | 44 Melon or |
| | 54 "soil" | 74 feast | 45 Gun getter |
| | 55 "soil" | 75 feast | 46 Hindu |
| | 56 "soil" | 76 feast | 47 guitar |
| | 57 "soil" | 77 feast | 48 Desert |
| | 58 "soil" | 78 feast | 49 dweller |
| | 59 "soil" | 79 feast | 50 ill-man- |
| | 60 "soil" | 80 feast | 51 Dill |
| | 61 "soil" | 81 feast | 52 Table d' |
| | 62 "soil" | 82 feast | 53 de deux |
| | 63 "soil" | 83 feast | 54 Editors' |
| | 64 "soil" | 84 feast | 55 concerns: |
| | 65 "soil" | 85 feast | 56 abbr. |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MODE ARAB BLADE
 OBITU STANE RAVEN
 NICESSITY EMERIN
 EST HELL AVERTIN
 TETABAR CLABIN
 FAMILIARITY NIA
 ARIL BAM ATOP
 YUN COMPARISONS
 EMITRATIE LOGE
 DIDIRIS MASLATIES
 BARBARIS FIEDO ARIA
 ANIME CURIOSITY
 UNDER TRAN QUES
 LEEEDS ANTI NERO



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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Mutt 'n' Jeff

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SLUPH

TRAPE

MAYGIB

TEASET



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINCE PATIO CAMPUS NEEDLE
 Answer: What the fisherman's earnings were - HIS "NET" INCOME

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

5:30 Evening 4:45 Cartoons 4:50 Children Program 6:40 The Time 7:00 Local program 7:25 Program on Agriculture in Jordan 8:00 News in Arabic 8:30 Arabic series 8:50 Local program 9:15 Mus. Column 1:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6

6:30 French programme 7:00 News in French 7:30 News in Hebrew 7:45 Eva 8:00 8:20 Joe Friends (Comedy) 8:30 Play of the week 8:50 News in English 9:15 Mus. Column 10:00 Local Trans-mission of midnight mass from Vatican

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on 7:10 Morning Show 7:30 News Bulletin 7:40 Morning Show 8:00 News Bulletin 8:10 Morning Show 8:30 News Bulletin 8:40 News Bulletin 8:50 News Bulletin 9:00 News Bulletin 9:10 News Bulletin 9:20 News Bulletin 9:30 News Bulletin 9:40 News Bulletin 9:50 News Bulletin 10:00 News Bulletin 10:10 News Bulletin 10:20 News Bulletin 10:30 News Bulletin 10:40 News Bulletin 10:50 News Bulletin 11:00 News Bulletin 11:10 News Bulletin 11:20 News Bulletin 11:30 News Bulletin 11:40 News Bulletin 11:50 News Bulletin 12:00 News Bulletin 12:10 News Bulletin 12:20 News Bulletin 12:30 News Bulletin 12:40 News Bulletin 12:50 News Bulletin 1:00 News Bulletin 1:10 News Bulletin 1:20 News Bulletin 1:30 News Bulletin 1:40 News Bulletin 1:50 News Bulletin 2:00 News Bulletin 2:10 News Bulletin 2:20 News Bulletin 2:30 News Bulletin 2:40 News Bulletin 2:50 News Bulletin 3:00 News Bulletin 3:10 News Bulletin 3:20 News Bulletin 3:30 News Bulletin 3:40 News Bulletin 3:50 News Bulletin 4:00 News Bulletin 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Attacks imperialism, materialism Pope speaks out in address to mark World Peace Day

VATICAN, CITY, Dec. 23 (R) — Pope John Paul today issued a World Peace Day message that condemned the nature of society in both East and West as not allowing true freedom.

In a statement that criticised both communist and capitalist, the Pope attacked totalitarianism, suppression of the individual, materialism, and the consumer society.

"There is no true freedom when all powers are concentrated in the hands of a single social class, a single race or a single group, or when the common good is merged with the interests of a single party that is identified with the state," he said.

A society built on materialism, he added, "denies people their freedom when it submits individual freedoms to economic domination, when it represses man's spiritual creativity in the name of a false ideological harmony... when in practice it reduces to nothing the power to participate in public affairs."

Pope Paul VI designated Jan. 1 World Peace Day 14 years ago and since then the pontiff has always issued a message to the world to mark the occasion several days in advance.

The Pope said the freedom of the "consumer society" did not really deserve that name.

"The insatiable pursuit of goods is not subjected to the law of justice and social love," he said. "Such consumerism involves a limitation on the freedom of others."

The Pope denounced the "permissive society," saying it was a "caricature of freedom to claim that people are free to organise their lives with no reference to moral values." In all cases he condemned violence as a means to freedom.

Great powers which imposed their will on other nations were also criticised with words that had extra meaning coming from the Catholic Church's first Polish pontiff at a time when his native country is still in a state of political unrest.

"The freedom of nations is wounded when small nations are forced to align themselves with large ones in order to ensure their right to independent existence or survival."

"Freedom is wounded when the relationships between peoples are based... upon the right of the most powerful, upon the attitude of dominant blocs and upon military or political imperialism," he stated.

The Pope declared that freedom was also limited for individuals "who, as a result of uncontrolled industrial, urban or bureaucratic development, find themselves caught up in a giant machine, in a tangle of unwanted or unmanageable procedures."

He concluded that man was essentially free because he had the faculty of self-determination, but urged governments "to guarantee each individual's possibility of realising his or her human potential to the full."

"Let us not await the peace of the balance of terror," he urged. "Let us instead begin by respecting true freedom."

The message, written in Italian, was made available in six other languages -- Polish, English, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese.

He asserted that freedom is reduced in a society "that lets itself be guided by the dogma of indefinite material growth, by the pursuit of wealth or by the arms race."

The Pope warned that the economic crisis now affecting all societies, unless tackled with a different set of priorities, "could easily lead to the adoption of measures that would reduce still further the measure of freedom."

He said the "uncontrolled pursuit of material goods and all kinds of services offers only an apparent increase of freedom to those who benefit from them."

Indian parliament passes controversial security bill

NEW DELHI, Dec. 23 (R) — The Upper House of the Indian parliament early today approved the government's controversial national security bill which provides for preventive detention without trial for up to 12 months.

The bill, which was passed by the Lower House on Dec. 16, now becomes law.

Opposition members denounced the bill as a "black law" and a "draconian measure," and staged a walkout when the debate continued after midnight.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government has said the law will not be used against political opponents. But the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that a student leader was arrested under the detention law in the northeastern state of Assam yesterday.

PTI said 23 people have been detained under the new measure in Assam, where more than 260 people were killed in 15 months of anti-immigrant agitation.



Pope John Paul delivering his World Peace Day address

Jiang accuses judges of being 'fascists'

PEKING, Dec. 23, (R) — Mao Tse-tung's widow Jiang Qing disrupted the proceedings in China's special court again today, calling the judges and chief public prosecutor fascists and shouting at witnesses, according to official reports.

The presiding judge warned her that by doing so she was laying herself open to a heavier sentence. The court, trying her on charges of counter-revolution, which

amount to having directed Mao's Cultural Revolution from 1966-76, today concluded its examination of her case, leaving only the summing-up before the judges retire to consider their sentence.

Jiang Qing is the last of the 10 defendants in the trial to have her case concluded. The summing-up procedure against her nine co-defendants, including the other three members of the so-called Gang of Four, has already ended.

Kosygin given hero's funeral

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (AP) — The Soviet Union today gave a hero's funeral to Alexei Kosygin in a full-dress military ceremony before thousands of citizens and troops on Red Square.

The ashes of the former premier, who lay in state yesterday and was cremated overnight, were borne into Red Square on a gun carriage pulled by armoured vehicle.

Against a background of funeral music, President Leonid Brezhnev, and other top leaders carried the urn containing the ashes to a niche in the Kremlin wall — the traditional resting place of Soviet heroes.

Artillery fire echoed across the square in memory of the premier, who died on Thursday at the age of 76 after 16 years as head of the Soviet government.

As usual in Soviet state funerals, no religious element was evident. A line of generals carried Mr. Kosygin's medals on red cushions while citizens and other troops held aloft wreaths and Mr.

Kosygin's portrait in black bunting.

Dark-clad family members stood next to the urn as Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, Mr. Kosygin's successor, read out a eulogy from the top of the Lenin Mausoleum.

As Mr. Brezhnev looked on, Mr. Tikhonov, 75, said Mr. Kosygin's life was dedicated to the "struggle for communist ideals."

Another speaker, Light Industry Minister Nikolai Tarasov, praised Mr. Kosygin's traditional closeness to the country's consumer goods sector.

Mr. Tarasov said Mr. Kosygin showed "inexhaustible energy" and constant dedication to the production of goods for the Soviet people. The Soviet Union's 1981 economic plan, for the first time, calls for a greater output growth in consumer goods industries than in heavy industry.

A Leningrad factory worker also eulogised Mr. Kosygin who was a Leningrad native and former mayor of Russia's second-largest city.

Pentagon admits 32 serious nuclear slips over past 30 years

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (R) — The United States' defence department has admitted that 32 serious accidents involving U.S. nuclear weapons have occurred in the past 30 years, over twice the number in its last official count in 1968.

The Pentagon was commenting on a Reuter story at the weekend which quoted an interim defence department report not yet made public as saying at least 27 such accidents had occurred since 1950.

The story also quoted Pentagon officials as saying there might have been up to 10 other such accidents which were too sensitive to describe because of the countries where they had occurred.

The official count in 1968 was "broken arrows," the Pentagon code word for mishaps such as the recent non-nuclear explosion of a Titan II missile in Arkansas, in which a maintenance man was killed and several people were injured.

"We have no quarrel with the accuracy of the Reuter story," a Pentagon spokesman said. "We conferred today and our count is 32 serious accidents."

Pentagon officials have said there was no conspiracy to withhold information about accidents involving nuclear weapons, but there was a dispute within the government over which ones qualified as "broken arrows."

The Centre for Defence Information (CDI), a private research group based in Washington, maintains there have been 95 such incidents between 1950 and 1975, and more since 1975 than the Pentagon has admitted.

Two former Pentagon officials told Reuters that one of the accidents included in the interim report might have led to a nuclear catastrophe.

In 1961 a crashing B-52 bomber jettisoned two bombs over Goldsboro, North Carolina.

The officials, who asked not to be named, said both bombs were of 24 megatons and one attached to a parachute struck a tree, releasing five of six interlocking safety switches.

The Pentagon has declined to confirm or deny that a nuclear blast nearly occurred, but one official said he doubted that bombs as powerful as 24 megatons would have been on the B-52.

One government official said that because of advances in safeguards against accidental nuclear detonation, nuclear terrorism was more of a potential danger than accidents.

He said U.S. army special forces (commando) units had been specially trained to combat terrorists who seized nuclear weapons storage sites.

Quake jolts northern Italy

MILAN, Italy, Dec. 23 (AP) — A strong tremor jolted a wide area of northern Italy at lunch time today, a month after a massive earthquake struck southern Italy and killed nearly 3,000 people.

First reports said cracks appeared in some old buildings in towns southeast of Piacenza, between Milan and Bologna. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The tremor was felt in Genoa, Bologna, Milan, Parma, Pavia, Piacenza, Brescia and Ferrara, according to initial reports.

The national observatory at Monteporzio Catone outside Rome said the quake measured six on the Mercalli scale and 4.7 on the Richter scale. A quake of that magnitude is capable of causing moderate damage to buildings.

It said the epicentre was at Busto Arsizio, a heavily industrialised area northwest of Milan toward the lake region. But the seismological institute in Trieste said the epicentre possibly was in Appennino Emiliano near Parma.

Firemen and switchboards of Milan newspapers received hundreds of calls by people seeking information about the quake.

The golden statue of the Madonna, atop the main spire of the city's cathedral, swung for about two minutes, officials said.

IRA hints at tacit ceasefire in Ulster over Christmas pe

BELFAST, Dec. 23 (AP) — Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas hinted yesterday that they will observe a tacit Christmas ceasefire in Northern Ireland following the end of a 53-day hunger strike by convicted activists demanding political prisoner status.

There was still confusion over who won the contest of wills between the guerrillas and the British government.

Both sides claimed victory after the hunger strike ended last Thursday. But a four-year "dirty" protest in the Maze prison dragged on with some 470 jailed guerrillas refusing to wear prison uniforms. The men wear only blankets and smear cells with their own excrement.

IRA sources termed the situation a stand-off with the prisoners waiting for the British to implement reforms the guerrillas say the hunger-strikers won and the British saying better conditions will only be given to conforming prisoners.

Nevertheless, sources close to the outlawed IRA's "provisional" wing said guerrilla leaders were expected to order their men to maintain the low profile they adopted during the hunger strike until the new year.

The sources said the Provos are not likely to announce a formal Christmas truce in their campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland, but one informant noted: "Things will probably stay cool while the consequences of the hunger strike are fully assessed."

Mr. Gerry Adams, vice president of the Provos' political front, Sinn Féin, told a Belfast rally on Sunday that the "struggle continues" but he also told supporters to "go home and have a peaceful Christmas."

There was a marked relaxation in tension generated by the hunger strike.

However, British authorities still feared IRA bomb attacks in London and other mainland cities. These fears centred on Mr. Gerard Tuite, 25, a Provo master-bomber who escaped from

Reagan cabin almost complete

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — elect Ronald Reagan has nearly complete cabinet nominations, a difficult process more than he himself predicted.

With the nomination of four new members of his cabinet, education secretary and special trade representative named.

The former post will be a particularly sticky one to Reagan promised during the election campaign to a education department that had been created by Mr. Mr. Reagan was today expected to announce the appointment of Illinois pig farmer John Block as secretary of agriculture. Mr. Block was his choice for the job.

The four new cabinet nominees, named yesterday, first woman and a black.

— Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, a political science professor at Georgetown University as ambassador to the United Nations.

— Black New York lawyer and former judge Sam Donaldson as secretary of housing and urban development.

— Former South Carolina governor James Edwards as secretary.

— Conservative Colorado lawyer James Watt as secretary of the interior.

Mr. Edwards, the energy secretary-designate will implement Mr. Reagan has promised to abolish in an effort to end over-regulation.

Mr. Watt, as nominee for interior, could prove a cabinet appointment. He has drawn criticism for his campaign against government concessions to environmentalists. The four new nominees, like their predecessors, have any statements in a news conference yesterday that did not haunt them during their Senate confirmation hearings. Mrs. Kirkpatrick has missed no opportunity to point out she has always been and remains a Democrat.

China now to attend Kampuchea conference

PEKING, Dec. 23 (R) — Vice-foreign Minister Zhang today China would attend a proposed international conference on the Kampuchean question without first requiring even a Chinese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

He told Australian journalists however that a total pullout from Kampuchea was necessary to achieve a settlement.

Zhang made clear that in dropping its earlier insistence on partial withdrawal as a precondition for the conference taken into account the position of ASEAN, the five-nation Southeast Asian Nations.

The Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia co-sponsored a resolution adopted by the United Nations Assembly in October calling for such a conference early next year.

Since the U.N. resolution was passed, two ASEAN member states, Thailand and Singapore, have visited Peking to press the ASEAN position. Zhang said China hoped to coordinate moves with states, but stuck to its stand that total Vietnamese withdrawal was prerequisite to a solution.

"The question of withdrawal must be discussed first of China still hoped that Vietnam would begin a partial withdrawal before a conference "to show its sincerity in a total withdrawal."

Diplomatic sources reporting the Chinese change of mind said this would bring China into line with the U.N. which also calls for measures to guarantee human rights elections in the strife-torn nation.

The sources said the Chinese government has also needed for change in the leadership of the Peking-backed Kampuchean group to improve its image tarnished by its three-and-a-half years in office.

The group, known as the Khmer Rouge, has been engaged in guerrilla war against the Vietnamese since it was forced to flee two years ago.

Christmas celebrations, Soviet style

By David Minthorn

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 — "Children's World" is overrun with crowds buying toys, the "green patrol" is out looking for fir tree thieves and newspapers are offering Santas for rent.

Christmas season, Soviet style, is booming in Moscow, with hectic shopping and some of the commercial gimmicks of the West, but no overtly religious connotations.

With the government officially atheistic, Soviet citizens do their main celebrating on new year's when red-clad "Father Frost" and his comely assistant "Snegurochka" (Snow Maiden) bring gifts for deserving children gathered around each family's tree.

Communism seems to have come to terms with the old Russian holiday traditions and adopted many for political and commercial purposes.

"Comrade customers who got separated from each other should meet at the main door," drones a loud speaker at Russia's biggest toy store, Detsky Mir or Children's World, crammed with half a million customers daily in the holiday rush.

"What do you recommend for a 10-year-old boy?" an elderly Russian woman asks a saleswoman after elbowing her way to the counter.

"Take this telegraph set. He would like it," the saleswoman replies, handing over a box with plastic tapping keys and copper wire selling for 3.50 rubles (\$5.10).

East German electric trains, costing 30 rubles (\$44), a Soviet doll that shakes her head when fed a magnetised bottle, 12 rubles (\$17.60), and plastic space ship and jetliner models, 4 rubles (\$6).

The Soviet state is also happy about the holiday season's clang of cash registers at Detsky Mir, the store that always meets its sales

games available in Western Europe and the United States. But even if the toy selection is limited and the quality shoddy, Soviet kids look wide-eyed and happy as they survey the counters at Children's World.

The Soviet state is also happy about the holiday season's clang of cash registers at Detsky Mir, the store that always meets its sales

Dec. 22. A seven-story tall fir tree, with electric lights and colorful ornaments, is going up near the Kremlin wall for the holiday.

Moscow reported that 200,000 Soviet children will attend a series of parties at the Kremlin this year during the Dec. 29-Jan. 10 school break. Others are hosted by state institutions

elsewhere in the city.

The seasonal outbreak of tree thefts from state forests and natural preserves around Moscow and other Soviet cities has prompted warnings from the state-controlled press.

Gangs poach trees and bring them into Moscow for sales on the



Full of festive cheer, a group of Muscovites gather in the snow outside the Kremlin.

or less, are big sellers at the huge store across the square from KGB secret police headquarters.

Cross country skis, plastic pistols and ray guns and miniature Soviet siege guns and tanks are also popular.

There are none of the sophisticated electronic and computer